

BOROUGH OF LOUGHBOROUGH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1941.

INTERIM REPORT.



To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
of the Borough of Loughborough.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my fifth annual report on the health of your Borough.

This report is again an interim one, and only the salient features of the year's work are commented upon.

There has again been a considerable increase in the work of the Maternity & Child Welfare and Midwifery sections, though, as this is to some extent due to war conditions, it is unlikely that the present volume of work will be maintained in future years.

In general, the health of the population has shewn no deterioration due to war conditions. In particular, the nutrition of children is, if anything, better than in former years. This is probably accounted for by the relatively improved standard of living of a section of the community due to the greater earning capacity, together with the fact that rationing has cut out "fancy" foods from the dietary whilst ensuring that an adequate supply of wholesome food is available.

I wish to thank the Committee and all the members of the staff for their co-operation and support during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. CAUTLEY HOLDERNESS

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity Services.

The increasing difficulties of confinement in the home due to overcrowding, absence of the husband in the services and the great difficulty of obtaining domestic assistance during the lying-in period has led to a greatly increased demand for hospital accommodation for confinement. Notwithstanding this the Municipal Midwives attended 11 more cases than in the previous year.

<u>Work of Municipal Midwives.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>
Number of cases delivered :- Midwifery	84	105
Maternity	67	57
	<u>151</u>	<u>162</u>
Number of visits made :-		
Ante-natal	833	1078
During puerperium	2580	3000

Evacuation.

Throughout the year there was a steady flow of expectant mothers from the evacuation areas to Loughborough, where they are billeted prior to confinement in the Emergency Maternity Hospitals.

The following comparative table shews the increased attendances at the ante-natal clinics during the year :-

<u>Ante-natal clinic.</u>		<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>
New cases	Loughborough	83	125
	Evacuees	282	729
Attendances	Loughborough	250	480
	Evacuees	685	2558
Cases referred to Dental Clinic		13	21

Child Welfare.

There was a considerable increase in the volume of work under this heading during the year. The increased number of visits is to some extent accounted for by the employment of an additional temporary Health Visitor.

It is likely that the fall in the number of evacuees will be reflected by a fall in the figures of visits and attendances in subsequent reports.

<u>Attendances at Welfare Centres.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>
First attendances under 1 year	542	435
First attendances over 1 year	183	112
Other attendances under 1 year	6393	8331
Other attendances over 1 year	6187	6882
	<u>13305</u>	<u>15760</u>

Attendances at Minor Ailments Clinic.

Number of children referred	139	135
Total number of attendances	784	1478
Children referred to Dental Clinic	26	55
" " " Eye Clinic	7	18
" " " Cripples Guild	12	13

Home Visits by Health Visitors.

To children under 1 year	First visits	605	611
	re-visits	2236	3448
To children 1 - 5 years		4652	6976
To expectant mothers	First visits	200	147
	re-visits	439	1001
		<u>8132</u>	<u>12183</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever.

66 cases of this disease were notified during the year, and, of these, 59 were removed to hospital. In three cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. No deaths occurred.

Diphtheria.

117 cases of this disease were notified and, of these, 115 were removed to hospital. The diagnosis was not confirmed in three cases. There were four deaths from the disease.

Measles & Whooping Cough.

Relatively few cases of these diseases were notified during the year. Only 102 cases of measles were notified compared with 1037 the previous year.

95 cases of whooping cough (1 death) were notified, as compared with 21 the previous year, but this figure is small compared with the number of cases occurring in an epidemic year.

The incidence of other infectious diseases during the year calls for no special comment.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

746 children were immunised during the year compared with 372 in 1940. This figure is not high enough - a much greater number of children must be immunised if diphtheria is to be stamped out. During the year a broadcast by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and other publicity had the effect of increasing the number of acceptances to some extent, but too many parents remain apathetic, if not definitely antagonistic.

The need for immunisation is kept constantly before parents through the clinics, Health Visitors, School Nurses and teachers, and every opportunity is taken to emphasise the need for children to be immunised at an early age.

Number of children immunised :-

	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>
Under 5 years	155	417
Over 5 years	217	329
Total	<u>372</u>	<u>746</u>

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall,
Loughborough.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,
FOR THE YEAR 1941.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Loughborough
Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my thirty-third Annual Report on the operations of the Sanitary Department for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

In accordance with a request from the Minister of Health for strict economy in the consumption of paper, I am requested to report briefly upon the essential work of my department, but trust that in the near future more detailed reports may be permissible.

I would, in conclusion like to take this opportunity of thanking the Health Committee, my assistants and clerks for their support and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BINTCLIFFE.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

Number of	notices issued			309
"	"	complied with		272
"	"	houses re-inspected		2072
"	"	House to house inspections		550
"	"	Infected houses visited		300
"	"	Rooms fumigated		295
"	"	" sprayed		485
"	"	lots of infected beds stoved at Farm-		43
"	"	" " " " destroyed at Farm -		25
"	"	drains and other inspections		10907
"	"	Complaints received		187
"	"	communications re dust removals		47
"	"	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops inspections		816
"	"	Factories inspected		204
"	"	Outworkers inspected		163
"	"	Offensive Trades		165
"	"	Drains tested		60
"	"	Smoke observations		24
"	"	Samples of Milk taken for bact. examination		48
"	"	Slaughterhouses inspected during office hours		118
"	"	" " " " evenings & Sundays		55
"	"	Meat stalls and stores inspected		638
"	"	Samples of water taken for analysis		2
"	"	Food Stores insp. other than where meat is kept		392
"	"	Inspections under the Housing overcrowding Act		127
"	"	Premises inspected for vermin		44
"	"	" treated for vermin		58
"	"	Shops inspected		337
"	"	Canal Boats inspected		40

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

New drains laid	-	-	7
Drains taken out	-	-	9
" unstopped and cleansed	-	-	64
" ventilated and disconnected	-	-	3
Inspection chambers built	-	-	8
New gullies provided	-	-	12
Waste pipes of sinks disconnected	-	-	4
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	-	-	54
Sink waste channels repaired	-	-	32
New sink stones provided	-	-	6
Bath and washbasins disconnected	-	-	7
Drains tested by smoke, water or colour test	-	-	126
Water closets repaired	-	-	41
New water closets provided	-	-	14
Pail closets converted to water carriage system	-	-	29
Pail closets provided	-	-	4
Yard surface repaired or paved	-	-	34
Rain water conductors repaired or fixed	-	-	40
Soft water cisterns cleansed	-	-	1
Windows and cords repaired	-	-	38
Floors repaired or concreted	-	-	19
Dirty houses cleansed	-	-	11
" cellars "	-	-	2
Water or sewage removed from cellars	-	-	5
Roofs stripped and repaired	-	-	60
Ventilators repaired	-	-	21
Damp walls remedied	-	-	23
Damp courses provided	-	-	2
Damp courses repaired	-	-	6
Plaster ceilings repaired	-	-	18
Plaster walls repaired	-	-	15
General internal and external defects remedied	-	-	126
Ashpits dispensed with	-	-	1

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in district at end of 1941 - 1. Privies	-	48
2. Pails	-	198
3. W.C's	-	11810

SANITARY INSPECTION.

Total number of inspections	-	-	16952
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	-	-	
(excluding smoke nuisances)	-	-	3618
" " " complaints received	-	-	187
" " " notices served	-	-	
(a) Formal	-	-	16
(b) Informal	-	-	293
" " " defects remedied after serving of notices	-	-	3519

The above inspections include those under the following headings:-

Housing inspection under Housing Act, 1936.

Inspection of drains, Factories & Bakehouses.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Slaughterhouses, Offensive Trades, treatment of premises for vermin.

Markets, Meatstalls and Foodstores, other than where meat is kept, and inspections under the Shops Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF

FOOD SUPPLIES.

MILK.

Total number of retail Purveyors on Register	156
Number residing in the district including shopkeepers registered for the sale of pastuerised and sterilised milk in bottles only	147
Number of Retail Purveyors residing outside the district	9
Total number of producers on register including producers who retail their own milk	39

THE MILK (CERTIFICATION) ORDERS 1925 & 1936.

Number of Certified Tuberculin Tested Producers in the district	2
Number of Accredited Retailers in the district	7
Number of Accredited Bottlers Licensed in the district	3
Number of Certified Tuberculin Tested Retailers residing outside the district retailing in the borough	1
Total inspections for all purposes	816

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

48 samples of milk have been submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and 43 were recorded as satisfactory. In the case of unsatisfactory results frequent inspections have been made to the farms and dairies concerned and advice given to the farmer and dairyman.

The milk supplied to the schools in the Borough is submitted monthly for bacteriological examination and every three months for fat content, and the standard of the milk has reached a high level.

	No. of samples taken.	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory.	% satisfactory.
1941	48	43	5	89.5
1940	39	35	4	89.7
1939	62	53	9	85.5
1938	101	90	11	89.1
1937	82	71	11	87

Food and Drugs Act, etc.

The above acts are administered by the Dorsetshire County Council and by the kind co-operation of the Chief Constable, Capt. C.E. Lynch-Blosse, and the Inspector for the District. Supt. J. Darling, the following information has been supplied :-

Total number of samples taken	83
Total samples of milk taken	31
Total other samples	52

In four cases, proceedings were taken in respect of seven of the above samples.

MEAT & FOOD CONTROL.

171 pigs and 2 lambs were slaughtered in the Borough slaughterhouses during the year. These were slaughtered by local people for their own consumption. 40 stones of pork was destroyed after examination of these animals, as unfit for human consumption. 173 inspections and visits were made.

KNACKERS YARDS.

74 inspections were made of the one registered knackers yard in the district and the conditions were found at all times to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF FOODSTORES, ETC.,

Number of meat stores etc., inspected	-	396
" " shops, meat stalls etc., inspected	-	638
" " premises where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale	-	392

SUMMARY OF FOODS CONDEMNED.

Beef	-	15 stones.
Pork	-	40 "
Tinned Meats	-	48 tins.
Beef sausage	-	5 stones.
Bacon	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ stone.
Sausage Rusks	-	1 cwt.
Fresh Fish	-	65 stones.
Tinned Fish	-	55 tins.
Tinned Vegetables	-	42 tins.
Tomatoes	-	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Cheese	-	11 lbs.
Evaporated Milk	-	12 tins.
Eggs	-	2,057
Margarine	-	5 stones.
Lard	-	1 stone.
Butter	-	6 stones.
Rice	-	1 cwt.
Sugar	-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones.
Tinned fruit	-	40 tins.

HOUSE DISINFECTION.

Number of infected houses visited	-	300
" " " rooms fumigated	-	295
" " " sprayed	-	485
" " lots of infected bedding steam disinfected	-	43
" " " " destroyed	-	25

The usual practice of dealing with infected cases has been continued and disinfectants supplied free to householders when such cases have been notified.

DISINFECTION

44 premises were inspected for vermin, which necessitated 58 rooms being treated. Effective results were obtained after treatment.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

20 trades are registered with the Local Authority and during the year under survey, 165 visits were made and conditions found to be satisfactory, no serious infringements were found.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919.

Wartime conditions have necessitated stricter supervision of this branch of our duties. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have emphasised how important it is to prevent the destruction of our food supplies and desire responsible officers to increase their activities to check this serious menace.

During the year 465 visits were paid to infested premises and the use of the Hydro-Cyanide Acid gas pump has proved very effective in ridding a large number of premises of rats. The payment of 2d per carcase has been continued and 429 rats were brought at a cost of £3.11.6d.

SHOPS ACTS 1912, 1913, 1928, 1934 & 1936.

337 shops in the Borough were inspected under the above Acts, dealing with sanitary and washing accommodation, ventilators and the working conditions of the shop assistants and hours of employment of young persons.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Routine inspections of Factories have been carried out in the district. 204 inspections having been made and alterations and improvements affected in the sanitary conditions of several factories.

Summary of Inspections.

Factories with mechanical power	-	-	28
" without " "	-	-	109
Bakehouses inspections	-	-	67

OUTWORKERS.

163 Outworkers were inspected during the year and it is pleasing to note that the improvement of the working conditions continues. One case of infectious disease was found which necessitated the disinfection of the premises and outwork material.

SALVAGE.

The year 1941 has been very successful and the following brief summary gives adequate proof of the splendid response to our frequent appeals for salvage materials.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>D.</u>
Wastepaper	339	11	2	1512.	19.	3
Scrap Metals	9	-	1	38.	1.	6
Bones	8	19	1	26.	16.	9
Rags	4	8	2	9.	2.	6
Kitchen Waste	316	15	3	475.	3.	9
2,080 Bottles				5.	5.	10
Miscellaneous articles				4.	14.	11
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Total receipts for year ending December 1941.	£2072.			4.	6	
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